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BOOK REVIEWS

THE RISING TEMPER OF THE EAST. By *Frazier Hunt*. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. Pp. 1-248. \$2.50 net.

To read this book is to get clear-cut pictures of Gandhi and his India, of present-day Japan, of Korea and the Philippines, of Australia, and incidentally of certain phases of our own behavior in Haiti and Mexico. The author is a reporter of a high order. His work here is the work of a reporter. But it is more than that. It is the voice of millions in far-away lands, a voice that is increasing. It is more than that. It is the revelation of a man who has thought deeply upon the woes of the world, a man who has concluded that "the white man's domination of the billion men of the East by force must cease." He has come to believe that the West must "shift its course now, while there is still time." We can no longer speak of an unchanging East, for we are confronted with a changing East. Thus Mr. Hunt's book does more than illuminate dark corners of the world; it throws light into the darkness of our minds. His work is simple, but arrestingly vivid. It is a human thing. To read it is to sense anew "all the precious things of real freedom." The author has made it easier for his readers to understand better the massacres, the social upheavals; but, more important, we are made to sense the duty facing Western civilization.

BEHIND THE MIRRORS. By the author of *The Mirrors of Washington*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Pp. I-IX, 1-236. Portraits by Cesare.

The gentlemen who followed the English example and used a duster on American notables of politics a year ago has applied himself again to the task for the delectation of the multitude. And he has done a better job. "The Mirrors of Washington" had much in it that was brilliant and much that was true, but it was marred in spots by an obvious straining for effect, by a fear that unless the dish were highly spiced it would not be palatable to those from whom royalties were to be had.

Examples were the appraisal of Mr. Wilson, erected largely on the foolish hypothesis that he was afraid of rough-and-tumble combat, and the excessively bitter estimate of Mr. Lodge, which somehow left the impression that the author felt that having damned Mr. Wilson he must prove his impartiality by damning the man who had led the opposition in the great fight over the League. One has little of such suspicion of the author after reading his new book.

It bears the marks of genuineness. The author has been concerned not merely with drawing pictures of the great and near great in Washington, although there is some swift, skillful work along that line. He has put his book into the form of a running discussion of events and political phenomena in the past few decades. And that discussion, with its filling of analysis and appraisal of leading characters, quite evidently represents the fruit of long and careful observation and meditation.

One interesting argument of the author is that the Presidency is destined to sink in importance. That will come into conflict with the prevailing opinion. Much of the criticism now heard of Mr. Harding is that he has not been sufficiently vigorous in the exercise of his power, express and implied. That argues a public opinion which craves positive and definite leadership of Congress from the White House, as in the Wilson administration and to a large extent in the Roosevelt administration. And most people think that what public opinion wants it usually gets in this country. But the gentleman with the duster maintains with marked plausibility that when the Senate defeated Mr. Wilson in the treaty fight, it established itself permanently as the real reservoir of power in this government. It demonstrated its possession of that power anew, he thinks, when the treaties from the Washington Conference were presented. The writer paints President Harding as bowing lower to the Senate, in seeking its favor and the two-thirds votes necessary to ratification of the treaties, than any other President had done. And, since foreign affairs and treaty relations promise to occupy an increasing large space in the governmental arena,

the author concludes that this stern and masterful attitude of the Senate and this placating attitude of the President, will continue. From that fact, he reasons on to the time when the Presidency will be reduced to something like the mere formalism of the Crown of Great Britain.

True, the gentleman who dusts the mirrors is in a sad mood, extraordinarily sad mood. There was nobody of real caliber in the White House between Lincoln and Roosevelt. Roosevelt was a bluffing, play-acting figure of enormous vitality and force. Taft was weak and unsure of himself, using a "past" foot and a "future" foot and standing alternately on them. Wilson was a man of great will, an autocrat, with small hatreds. Harding is feeble than Taft. A sad picture indeed.

And a worse one is portrayed when Mr. Harding's Cabinet, so widely praised, is presented to the eye. Hughes and Hoover are the big men. Hughes has a legalistic mind and Hoover a scientific mind, and both are short and abortive in other respects. Daugherty is next in power, and his life philosophy has been merely to "stand close" to power. Weeks is half politician, half business man, and without great qualities. Denby has more heart than head. Wallace is a good technical adviser. Fall is of the breed that turns to lynch law. Mellon is a scared multi-millionaire, who depends upon young Mr. Gilbert, the Under-Secretary of the Treasury. Davis is painted as little less than ridiculous.

One becomes suspicious of the judgment of the author. In a world so completely gone to the devil, one suspects that the author's judgment may have gone to the devil along with everything else. And there are occasional and surprising inaccuracies in incidental statements of fact that make one wonder whether the author is as careful as one of his great, self-assumed responsibilities should be. But the man knows how to write, he has thoughts worth another's, and he has combined the two excellently and produced an arresting and stimulating book.

THE INDUSTRIAL CODE. By *W. Jett Lauck and Claude S. Watts*. Funk and Wagnalls Co., New York. Pp. 1-264; appendices, pp. 267-571. \$4.00.

Mr. Lauck will be remembered as the consulting economist of several of the powerful labor unions and a source of extreme annoyance to numerous powerful heads of railroads and other great industries. Mr. Watts is his associate. They have here written a book that reviews the industrial developments of the war and the varied expressions of industrial unrest and conflict the period between the war and the present. Packed into the book is a really valuable mass of exact information about the theories, claims, and experiments that have come from labor, capital, and public in the recent period of grappling with the labor question.

The authors are well grounded in their subjects, and they put meat and information into their treatment of them. The reader will have a better understanding than may be got from almost any other sources, when he has read what Mr. Lauck and Mr. Watts have to say about the Kansas Industrial Court, the problem of collective bargaining, the living wage, and so on; also, he will have been given an authoritative explanation of the industrial code Mr. Lauck champions, which has been given serious attention by the more far-sighted men in Congress. The appendices, which fill about half the book, contain a large number of documents that will be valuable for reference.

YEAR BOOK OF THE CHURCHES, for 1921-1922. Edited by *E. O. Watson*. Published by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Hayworth Publishing Co., Washington. Pp. 1-426. In paper, \$1; in cloth, \$1.50.

This is an invaluable compilation of the data of religious organizations. It contains a highly informative directory of religious bodies that includes much valuable historical matter. There also is a mass of statistics that are needed not merely in the religious circles, but by all classes that have to do with intellectual effort and the guidance of public opinion. Every editor and statesman, as well as every minister, should have a copy of this book on his table for reference.